THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Amendment of Newspapers Registration Act

428. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Newspapers Registration Act; and

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) The Press and Registration of Books (Amendment) Bill, 1988 was introduced in the House on 5-12-1988. The views of the newspapers representation will be taken into consideration before proceeding further with the Bill.

Allotment of Agricultural land to women

429. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to allot agricultural land specifically to women; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Various State Governments have taken legal and administrative measures to implement the 6th Plan directive of providing joint titles/pattas to women in the matter of allotment of land for agriculture and house-sites purposes. In the Conference of Revenue Minister held in December, 1988 the consensus was that specific targets could be considered for allotting land specifically to women beneficiaries. Land being a State subject State Governments are competent to allot land specifically to rural poor women pursuant to this consensus

Use of plastics in Agriculture

430. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to launch any pilot programme to promote the use of plastics in Agriculture from the coming April; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the said programme and the States alongwith the areas which are being considered for the said programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 15 districts in 13 States have been identified. This programme is aimed at popularising the use of plastics in drip irrigation, pond/canal lining, Green house, hail protection nets and plastic crates.

Setting up of food processing units with World Bank assistance

431. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank had agreed to provide assis-